

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00954 240117Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AS-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 EB-07 PM-04 SP-02 SS-15
/092 W

-----067365 240538Z /23

R 230915Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8245
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0954

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR PGOV LA HK
SUBJECT: LPDR POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL SALES OF LAO OPIUM

1. BOUTSABONG SOUVANNAVONG, SECRETARY OF STATE IN
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, REPORTEDLY TOLD AN ASIAN DIPLOMAT
IN LATE MAY THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAD BEGUN THE SALE
OF LAO OPIUM TO "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES. HE REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT PURCHASED THE OPIUM FROM
LAO CITIZENS.

2. A WELL INFORMED WESTERN SOURCE RESIDENT IN VIEN-
TIANE TOLD EMBOFF IN LATE APRIL THAT A JAPANESE
BUSINESSMAN RESIDENT IN VIENTIANE HAD TOLD HIM OF
HAVING NEGOTIATED A LUCRATIVE DEAL WITH THE MINISTRY
OF COMMERCE WHEREBY HE WOULD SELL "A LAO PRODUCT" IN
HONG KONG. A JAPANESE DIPLOMAT JUNE 9 TOLD EMBOFF
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00954 240117Z

THAT A JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN RESIDENT IN VIENTIANE
"RECENTLY" SOLD OPIUM OBTAINED THROUGH CONTACTS
WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TO
TRAFFICKERS IN HONG KONG.

3. THE DIPLOMAT SAID THAT THE SALE WAS TO BE THE
INITIAL TRANSACTION IN A REGULAR NETWORK OF SALES OF

LAO OPIUM IN HONG KONG, BUT THAT THE HONG KONG TRAFFICKERS WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE INITIAL TRANSACTION AND HAD REFUSED TO CONTINUE THE ARRANGEMENT. THE DIPLOMAT SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE DECISION WAS BASED ON THE TRAFFICKERS' DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PRODUCT OR WITH THE PROCEDURE.

4. COMMENT: REPORTS OF LPDR SALES OF LAO OPIUM TO "SOCIALIST" GOVERNMENTS FOR "MEDICINAL PURPOSES" (PARA 1) ARE FAIRLY COMMON. REPORT OF LPDR ATTEMPTS TO SELL OPIUM IN ILLICIT TRAFFICKING CHANNELS, HOWEVER, IS NEW. IF TRUE, THE REPORT COULD REFLECT EITHER GOVERNMENT POLICY OR, POSSIBLY, INDIVIDUAL CORRUPTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, OPIUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENTI00954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770225-1144
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770624/aaaaaumh.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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